

**STATE ASSESSORS BOARD**  
**2007-2008 CERTIFICATION RENEWAL PROGRAM**  
**ANNOUNCEMENT**

In the fall of 2006, assessing officers in Michigan completed an open-book exercise consisting of 50 questions pertaining to assessment administration. Based partially on the results of that exercise and partly on common weaknesses in assessing practices which have been revealed by the State Tax Commission's random 14-point review process, a new six-hour renewal program has been developed for the 2007-2008 certification renewal period.

This program consists of approximately two hours of education on each of three different subject areas: (1) usage of the State Tax Commission *Assessor's Manual*; (2) development of land values, land value maps, and economic condition factors; and (3) the application of new, loss, additions, losses, and adjustment. **Completion of this new certification renewal program is mandatory for all certified assessing officers for the 2007-2008 renewal period. The renewal program includes a take-home quiz which is to be completed and returned following the conclusion of the program.** Assessing officers will mail the quiz back to the State Assessors Board for grading. If a passing score has not been achieved, the quiz will be returned to the assessing officer for correction. This process will continue until a passing score is achieved. The new renewal format is **not** intended to result in assessing officers losing their certification. The intent of the renewal program is to help ensure that all certified assessing officers have the knowledge necessary to perform the various assessment administration functions competently and in accordance with established standards.

Please note that the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) renewal requirement that began in 2001 is still in effect. All certified assessing officers are still required to have met this requirement by September 30, 2011.

In prior years, assessing officers have met their annual six-hour certification renewal requirement through a variety of educational programs: State Assessors Board programs held in Lansing and other locations in the State, independently developed programs instructed by equalization directors and others, Michigan Assessors Association short courses, fee appraiser seminars, etc. Assessing officers are welcome and encouraged to continue pursuing additional educational opportunities. However, **for the 2007-2008 certification renewal period, only the mandatory six-hour program developed by the State Assessors Board will meet the annual six-hour renewal requirement. No other program will be accepted for six-hour renewal credit for the 2007-2008 certification renewal period.** Also, for the 2007-2008 renewal period, those assessing officers meeting the USPAP requirement will not receive annual six-hour renewal credit; assessing officers meeting the USPAP requirement during the 2007-2008 renewal period will still have to complete the mandatory six-hour renewal program.

Plans are being made to offer this program at locations throughout the state to accommodate assessing officers. It is hoped that this renewal program will be of benefit to the assessing profession in Michigan and to individual assessing officers.